

## Balkan beats under the Doppel Bock

Multi-instrumentalist Slobodan Trkulja was brilliant with WDR Funkhaus orchestra and his band Balkanopolis at Zollverein

It is known that the Balkans begin just south of Vienna. In contrast, it was a surprisingly persistent evening in Essen under the Doppel Bock headframe of Zollverein because the multi-instrumentalist Slobodan Trkulja was there with the WDR Funkhaus Orchestra and his band "Balkanopolis." The star in his native Serbia, he is apparently largely unknown in this country - and (for whatever reason) not detected by the Balkan community of the Ruhr.

Here, the musician is a fascinating innovator of ancient sound traditions eastern of Adriatic. One could only marvel at how confidently the 37-year-old played the material and Ottoman-influenced folk songs with rock grooves and sophisticated string beds which led to amazingly homogeneous synthesis.

Trkulja first paid homage to the Hungarian composer Béla Bartók with a selection of his "Dances of Transylvania" by casting an indicative light on their own standard. The whole big attraction is his form and since the conductor Arjan Tien safely guided WDR Funkhaus orchestra it fit well into the concept of rock-symphonic opulence.

For the fiddly Balkan beats cared drummer Arie Den Boer, cool-assisted by Dejan Antovic on low pitched five-strings and Leonid Pilipovic at the Tarpan, a double-sided drum. "Garnished" was the dazzling sound of Milos Jakovljevic on the Bulgarian kaval , while Dragutin Jakovljevic (Git.) and keyboardist Marko Milatovic were responsible for predominantly rock accents.

But the focus was clearly on the star of the evening, who casually presented his haunting melodies either on the clarinet or on the bagpipes. [The broadcast of ] This strong concert can be heard on April 23, starting at 20.05 pm on WDR 4.